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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Stephane BERTHOLIN et al.

Examiner: Aaron M. Dunwoody

Serial No.: 10/805,356

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filed: March 22, 2004

Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR CONNECTION WITH RELATIVE AND
CONTROLLED SEALING BETWEEN A PIPE AND A CERAMIC TUBE

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OF SPECIES

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the requirement for a restriction mailed August 17, 2005, Applicants hereby elect group II, Fig. 2. The requirement for a restriction is respectfully traversed.

Fig. 1 represents a device in accordance with the invention, Fig. 2 represents a device in accordance with the invention of the additional feature of a cooling jacket, Fig. 3 represents a device in accordance with the invention employed in a reactor and Fig. 4 represents several devices in accordance with the invention employed in tandem. As such, groups II-IV are related to group I as combination and subcombination, inasmuch as the device of Fig. 1 is contained in each of these groups. As such, the groups are linked, and should be examined in one application.

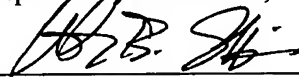
In such a situation, where there is little, if any, additional burden on the PTO to examine all the groups of the invention in a single application, such examination must be undertaken. See MPEP § 803.

It is moreover respectfully submitted that, in view of the election of species, the procedure set forth in MPEP § 803.02 concerning election of species should be adhered to. Specifically, once the elected species is searched, if no prior art is found the search and examination should be continued to the remaining groups.

A prompt action on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: PET-2131

Date: September 9, 2005

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